

# GRACE CHURCH VISITOR

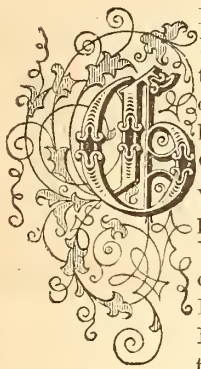
A MONTHLY DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE GRACE REFORMED CHURCH AND SUNDAY SCHOOL.

VOLUME 1.

FORT WAYNE, IND., OCTOBER, 1889.

NUMBER 10.

## MEETING OF THE OHIO SYNOD.



GRACE CHURCH had a fair representation at the meeting of our Synod recently held at Canton, Ohio. Our representation was as follows, the pastor and elder D. W. Souder from the congregation, Mrs. A. K. Zartman, and Miss Emma Neireiter from the Woman's Mis-

sionary Society, and Miss Josie Zartman from the Mission Band.

These parties left Fort Wayne Wednesday morning, Oct. 2. At Lima, Ohio, Ada, Upper Sandusky, Crestline, and at Mansfield, they were joined by numerous other delegates, en route for the Synod. Falling in with such good and agreeable company, the journey was altogether a pleasant one. Our party arrived at Canton, in the afternoon of October 2nd, and we were soon all quartered at our several places of entertainment.

In the evening of the same day, at 7:30 o'clock, the Synod convened in its opening session, at the Trinity Reformed Church, of Canton. The opening sermon was preached by the retiring President of the Synod, Rev. A. S. Zerbe, Tiffin, Ohio. Text 1st Thess. 5, 21. "Prove all things, hold fast that which is good." Immediately after the sermon, Synod proceeded with its organization. The Ohio Synod is composed of six classes viz: Miamia, Tuscarawas, Lancasters, Tiffin, Eastern Ohio, and St. Joseph. The roll-call indicated at once that the attendance at the meetings of Synod would be large. About one hundred delegates were enrolled at the opening session. Later many more delegates arrived and took their seats. Rev. J. M. Kendig, of Canfield, Ohio, was elected President. The Synod was fortunate in its choice of a presiding officer. Rev. J. M. Kendig ruled over the deliberations of Synod in an affable and courteous manner. To an observer it was apparent that the Ohio Synod was largely composed of young men.

Conspicuous among the elderly delegates were the following: Rev. Dr. G. W. Williard, who has served the church so devotedly, and successfully for some twenty years, as President of our institutions at Tiffin, O. Rev. Dr. Herman Rust is another of our elderly members of Synod, and has served the church for a number of years in our Theological Seminary, as one of its professors, and holds a very warm place in the hearts of so many of the members of Synod. Rev. Dr. I. H. Reiter, Stated Clerk of Synod, is another of our men upon whose head the frosts of years are telling. These men, and few others, while the years are growing upon them are still active, and indicate no decline in their zeal and devotion in the Lord's work.

There were present upon the floor of synod a number of brethren from sister synods of the Reformed Church. Among them Rev. Dr. Deters, Rev. Dr. Eschbach and Elder Boush, members of the executive committee of the Board of Home Missions of the General Synod. Rev. D. S. Fouse, superintendent of missions. Also Rev. Bartholemew of secretary of the Board of Foreign Missions, Rev. Rufus C. Miller, who visited synod in behalf of the Brotherhood of Andrew and Philip, and the Rev. Masayoshi Oshikawa, our missionary from the far off "Sunrise Land" of Japan. Synod was delighted to have these brethren present during its meetings. They came in the interest of special departments of work in our Reformed church, and delivered addresses and gave reports of their work, which was stimulating to the members of the synod.

During the days of Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Monday, the synod attend to such business as usually claims the attention of this convention, during its annual session. Reports were heard from the various boards, which have in charge the work of synod during the year. Reports were heard relating to our institutions of learning of Tiffin, O., also of the operations of the board of publication at Dayton, O. Reports from the board of home missions of the Ohio synod, and of church erection and beneficiary education. By these reports we were assured of the prosperity of the church throughout all our bor-

ders. The ministry has been active in the gathering in of souls, and in raising funds, to meet the current expenses of the various boards, and for our institutions of learning. We may congratulate ourselves both of the good feeling in the church, and of the work which is being done, and of the promise which is before us.

The Women's Synodical society was also in session during the meeting of synod, and mapped out plans for work in the coming year. A further report will appear elsewhere of the proceedings of this society. We can only say, this organization of the church is doing such excellent work that every woman, old and young, should cast in her help in this work. We shall hope and pray that soon every lady of Grace church will be identified with our local society, and bear part and lot in this inspiring and grand cause of the women.

On Thursday evening the Woman's Society gave a public service. Papers were read by several of the delegates, and a brief address by Rev. Bartholemew, secretary of the board of foreign missions. This was an eloquent address, and a searching plea for our missionary work in Japan. Our only wish was if only all the members of Grace church could have heard this address. At this same service, Rev. Oshikawa made a brief address, and on Friday evening he spoke again. We shall not enlarge upon the words of this speaker, inasmuch as Rev. Oshikawa will be in Fort Wayne on the last Wednesday of this month, when all our Reformed people shall have the opportunity of hearing this brother and servant of the Lord, for themselves. We can only say Oshikawa is a grand man, and the Reformed people of Fort Wayne will have an opportunity which comes only once in a lifetime of hearing and seeing such a man. The story of his own conversion from heathen idolatry to the Christian religion, and the story of the condition of his people is heart touching. Every member of Grace church must hear this man when he will come to our city.

On Friday evening Rev. Rufus C. Miller, of Reading, Pa., spoke in behalf of the Brotherhood of Andrew and

OHIO SYNOD—Continued on Third Page.



## GRACE CHURCH VISITOR.

25 Cents per Year.

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Entered at the postoffice at Fort Wayne, Indiana, as second-class matter. Feb. 7, 1889.

REV. MASAYOSHI OSHIKAWA.

This is the name of our missionary, who is now making a visit to this country. He was born at Igo, Japan, in the year 1850. He was sent to Tokio in order to study our western civilization and entered the Imperial college there and remained three years. He then moved to Yokohama and studied the English language under the teaching of Dr. James Ballach, who was one of the first missionaries sent to Japan by the Reformed church. Under Rev. Ballach's ministry Rev. Oshikawa was converted to Christianity and ordained to the ministry nine years ago. He is pastor of a large congregation in Sendai numbering 550. He is also president of the Reformed theological seminary in Sendai. Six months ago he came to this country both for recreation and to imbibe the spirit of our own Christian institutions. He will return to his native land in a short time.

This brother will be in Fort Wayne on Wednesday Oct. 30. The Board of Foreign Missions makes all the arrangements for his visits to our churches. The arrangement for his visit to Fort Wayne was stated to the pastor, when at the Ohio Synod. In the evening of Wednesday, Oct. 30, there will be a mass meeting of the Reformed people in Fort Wayne, at the St. John's church on West Washington street, since this church will accommodate the largest audience. He will speak in the English language. We expect to arrange for an afternoon meeting, which will be held in Grace church. We hope our Reformed people will attend these meetings, and see, and hear, and meet this man who comes to us from our mission field in Japan. No one can afford to miss this rare opportunity. Collections will be taken for the work of missions in Japan.

Grace church will celebrate the Holy Communion on Sabbath, October 27th. Preparatory services will be held on Friday evening previous. Reception of new members and baptism of adults and infants on Sabbath morning. We hope there may be a large number of applicants for church membership.

May those who are without a church home feel that they will meet with a warm reception among the people of Grace church. We hope to have Rev. Dr. Williard with us during these services. Let the members of Grace church feel it their sacred privilege and duty to be at these services. Christ our passover was sacrificed for us; therefore, let us keep the feast.

## A VACANT CHAIR.

Mrs. Pratt, a mother in Israel, after a continued illness of many months, finally departs in peace to the mansion beyond, where "the storms of life are past." This good mother was called from the family circle on Wednesday night, Sept. 25. She was born in New York State, had been a resident of Allen County for many years. She was beloved and esteemed by her neighbors, and a large circle of friends. At an early age she was converted, and became a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. A few years ago she united, together with others of her family, with Grace Church, of which she remained a faithful member until it pleased her Lord and Master to call her to the church triumphant. During the months of the summer the pastor called to see this mother a number of times, always finding her trusting in the Lord, and patiently awaiting the day of the Lord. She gave full proof of her faith, and her preparation to meet her final end. "She died happy." So die the righteous. To such the parting day of life is a glorious and happy day. The faithful soldier comes to victory. The servant to his sure recompense of reward. The child of God to the Father's house. This mother leaves to mourn her departure, three daughters, and also many other friends. The bereaved family has the prayer and sympathy of Grace Church. The funeral service was held on Friday afternoon, Oct. 27.

Mrs. Peter Kline spent a week during September in Chicago, with the family of Mr. and Mrs. Philip Keuchle. She reports a pleasant time with these friends, and that they hold in their hearts a very warm and affectionate feeling for the people of Grace Church. We hope to see this family back to Fort Wayne at some early day.

Miss Emma Neireiter read a report at the Ladies Synodical meeting, of the work done by the Ladies Society of Grace Church. Emma acquitted herself acceptably.

## THE WOMEN IN CONVENTION.

The Women's Missionary Society of the Ohio Synod met in regular session in the First Reformed Church, Canton, Oct. 2. In the absence of the President, the meeting was called to order by the Vice-President, Mrs. A. K. Zartman, and opened with the usual devotional exercises, scripture lesson, singing, prayer. The Secretary being absent, Mrs. Loucks was appointed Secretary pro tem. The delegates present were as follows: From Miami Classes Rev. Mrs. Loucks and Mrs. John Blum, Dayton; Mrs. Rev. Yorkey, Xenia; Mrs. Cost Fairfield, from Tuscarawas; Mrs. Black and Mrs. Rebecca Wise, Canton; Mrs. Frank and Miss Pontias, Akron; Mrs. Eggert, Mrs. Steele, and Mrs. Rev. Ihle Massillon, from Eastern Ohio; Mrs. Rev. Henning and Mrs. Nonamaker, Osnaburg; Mrs. Schwallen and Miss Mazer Louisville, St. Joseph; Miss Emma Neireiter, Mrs. A. K. Zartman, Fort Wayne. Many other ladies were present, who were advisory members of the society. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:

President—Mrs. M. Loucks, Dayton, Ohio.

Vice-Pres.—Mrs. Yockey, Xenia, Ohio.

Secretary—Mrs. A. K. Zartman, Fort Wayne, Ind.

Corresponding Secretary—Mrs. Eggert, Massillon, Ohio.

Treasurer—Mrs. Henning, Osnaburg.

Encouraging reports were read by the delegates present. Showing an increase in membership and greater activity in the various societies. The aggregate sum raised by the societies represented, amounted to sixteen hundred and ninety-five dollars and ninety-four cents, which amount has been used for home and foreign missions and for local purposes.

The subject of Mission Bands was discussed at length, and the following resolutions adopted: Resolved that the Woman's Missionary Society of the Ohio Synod recognize Mission Bands as auxiliaries and invite delegates and reports from the same for its annual meetings.

The delegates elected to the meeting of the Woman's Missionary Society of the general synod, at Lebanon, Pa., in May, 1890, are Mrs. A. K. Zartman and Mrs. Yockey.

In the evening the society held a service at which papers were read and several addresses made all bearing upon the work of missions. The society adjourned on Friday morning to meet at Bluffton, Ind., in October, 1890.



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## SERVICES.

Sabbath morning, - - - - -	10:30
Sabbath evening, - - - - -	7:30
Sunday School, - - - - -	9:30
Teachers' meeting Sabbath evening - -	6:30
Prayer meeting Wednesday evening - -	7:30

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F. D. PAULUS,	G. W. SOLIDAY,
D. W. SOUDER.	J. E. LONERGAN,

## BRIEF AND PERSONAL NOTES.

Elder D. W. Souder took a lively interest in the Synodical meetings.

The pastor and family will now be found in their new home at the Parsonage.

Miss Grace Foucht sang beautifully for us at the services on the evening of Children's Day.

Rev. Oshikawa will address the Reformed people, of Fort Wayne on Wednesday, Oct. 30.

The pastor and family spent the Sabbath during Synod at Akron, with the family of Rev. R. C. Zartman.

Rev. and Mrs. Rust visited friends in the city during the latter part of September. We hope they may come often.

Rev. Dr. Williard, of Tiffin, O., will be with us, nothing preventing, during our communion season, Oct. 27. Every member of Grace Church wants to be out and hear the doctor.

At the last monthly meeting of the Ladies Society, of Grace Church, there were two new members added to the society. Miss Katie Vordermark, and Mrs. Haight. Who will be the next to join this band of faithful workers.

Miss Katie Vordermark has returned with her friend Miss Anna Shaefer to Norwalk, Ohio, to spend several months. We hope the months may be short at both ends. Katie is missed both in the work of our Sabbath school and church.

Mrs. J. W. Foucht and family spent Sabbath Sept. 27, with friends in Fort Wayne. Their home is now at Green Springs, Ohio. They made many pleasant acquaintances while here, and their friends here wish them well in their new home.

Josie Zartman read a report before the ladies meeting of the Ohio Synod, giving a record of the children's mission band of Grace Church. The report was received with great favor and the ladies were highly gratified with the work of our little folks.

As soon as the pastor's family becomes fully settled in their new home, there will be given a reception at the parsonage, to the members and friends of the church, and the public in general. A supper will be served, the receipts of which will be applied upon the parsonage house.

THE Children and young people are always delighted, when the regular services of the church, give way for some service in which they receive special attention, and when they may bring their hearts and talents into special activity. The pastor of Grace Church believes in calling to his help, in the way of making the work of the church interesting and profitable, the young and the old. And he believes furthermore, that in proportion as any child, or adult works for the Lord, so the child or adult will become interested in the church and Sabbath school, as also in its own personal salvation.

The observance of Children's Day gives opportunity for the children and young people to make themselves useful, and to gain an inspiration for work. Grace Church observed Children's Day, this year, September 22nd. For a week or more the work of preparation had been in progress, every one being willing to do its part. At the morning service, the pastor spoke to the children and young people. The subject was, "Little Samuel." The boys and girls were very much interested in the story of this pious little lad, and they will long remember the illustration of the two apples, "The Wild Apple" and "The Maiden-blush,"—the boy and girl out of church and the boy and girl in the church.

In the evening the children and young people had charge of the services, and they did grandly. In the first place the audience was grand. The church parlors crowded, and overflowing, and the rooms nicely furnished with baskets of flowers, fruit-bearing grapevines, shocks of corn,—beautiful plants, and luscious fruits. The program was executed to the full credit of the children and young people. The singing of solos, duets, and choruses, and recitations were all good, and gave satisfaction to the large audience. The collections for the day were for benevolence, and amounted to \$30, lacking a few cents. We are sorry that we cannot publish a report by classes as we intended, but the classes did not follow the directions as indicated, and hence we are not able to publish a report that would be satisfactory. We hope by another year we may be able to do things more systematically.

OHIO SYNOD—Continued from First Page.

Philip. In our September number of the VISITOR, we made some reference to this new organization of the Reformed church. Rev. Miller is the happy originator of this society, and is both a pleasing speaker and an earnest worker. This society has for its aim the work of our Lord among young men. We should like to see the young men of Grace church form a chapter of this brotherhood among them.

The meetings of the Synod were indeed very pleasant and enthusiastic. It is a great misfortune that only so small a proportion of the membership of our churches is able to attend these meetings. It would be a great advantage if the whole church could be present and imbibe the spirit of these meetings. It is a great pleasure to meet old friends and collaborators from time to time at these meetings; as also to form new acquaintances. But it is not possible for the whole membership to be at these conventions, but we hope the delegates from Grace Church have been so thoroughly imbued with the spirit of work and consecration that the fire of christian zeal and devotion may be kindled in the bosom of the whole church. Our prayer is that Grace Church may be inspired to still greater activity, and that every soul among us may do well its part.

The next annual meeting of Synod will be held at Bluffton, Ind., on the first Wednesday of Oct. 1890. This will be a convenient place for the members of Grace Church to attend, and no doubt many of our people will avail themselves of this opportunity of attending the meeting of the Ohio Synod. Possibly in a few years hence Grace Church will take the pleasure of entertaining the synod in its own midst, when our church building shall once be complete.

The pastor's catechetical class will be organized soon. It seems some parents are indifferent about the instruction of their children. We hope they may give their hearts to prayer and reflection.

Rev. Israel Rothenberger, of White Pigeon, Mich., was in the city Sept. 30 and Oct. 1, and accompanied the Grace Church delegation to the Ohio Synod.

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